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Claims 1-6 and 9-10 are in the application. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

II. Telephone Interview Summaries

During the telephone interviews of November 5, 1997, the Examiner and the undersigned attorney discussed claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 17-20. The Applicants and the undersigned attorney would like to thank the Examiner for her help and suggestions during the telephone interviews.

A. Claim 1

During the discussion regarding claim 1, the Examiner pointed out that there was some confusion regarding the term "plasma molecule."

It was agreed to change the term "plasma molecule" to another term. The amendments refer to this as a "plasma gas" and include the possibilities for the gas that are listed in the specification. Agreement was reached between the Examiner and the undersigned attorney on the amendments made to claim 1 above.

B

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B. Claim 5

With respect to claim 5, the Examiner and the undersigned attorney discussed the terms "reactant gas" and "ionic gas." The Examiner also expressed some concern that claim 5 and claim 1, after amendment, have similar claim scope.

Agreement was reached between the Examiner and the undersigned attorney for the amendments made to claim 5 above.

C. Claims 6 and 8

With respect to claims 6 and 8, once the amendments to the term "ionic gas" are made in claim 5, claims 6 and 8 can be combined into a Markush-style claim.

The amendments reflect the discussion between the Examiner and the undersigned attorney.

D. Claim 7

Claim 7 was canceled without prejudice to reflect the agreements between the Examiner and the undersigned attorney.

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E. Claims 17-20

With respect to claims 17-20, the Applicants have canceled the claims without prejudice in order to expedite the prosecution of claims 1-6 and 9-10. The Applicants are planning to file claims 17-20 in a continuation of the present application.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that claims 1-6 and 9-10 are now in good order for allowance. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

UMESH K. MISHRA, et al.

By their attorneys,

MERCHANT, GOULD, SMITH, EDELL,  
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Date: Nov. 5, 1997

By: Anthony J. Orler  
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